## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a new, microbiological, method for the production of α-L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine (Asp-Phe) from the substrates L-aspartic acid (L-Asp) and L-phenylalanine (L-Phe) wherein the substrates are contacted, in the presence of ATP, with a non-ribosomal dipeptide synthetase comprising two minimal modules connected by one condensation domain wherein the N- resp. C-terminal modules are recognising L-Asp and L-Phe, respectively, and the latter module is covalently bound at its N-terminal end to the condensation domain, and wherein each of these minimal modules is composed of an adenylation domain and a 4'-phosphopantetheinyl cofactor containing thiolation domain, and that the Asp-Phe formed is recovered. The present invention also relates to novel DNA fragments or combination of DNA fragments encoding a new Asp-Phe dipeptide synthetase, micro-organisms containing such DNA fragments, as well as to the new Asp-Phe dipeptide synthetases itself.